

PROTEINUS LATREILLE, 1796 (INSECTA, COLEOPTERA): PROPOSED
DESIGNATION OF A TYPE-SPECIES UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS
Z.N.(S.) 1763

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The nominal genus *Proteinus* was established by Latreille, 1796 (*Précis Caract. Ins.*: 9) without included species. The same author ([1802–1803], *Hist. nat. gén. partic. Crust. Ins.* 3 : 135) fixed *Dermestes pulicarius* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 357) as the type-species of *Proteinus* by making it the first included species (type by subsequent monotypy).

2. Later, 1806 (*Genera Crust. Ins.* 1 : 298) Latreille used the generic name *Proteinus* for the species *Dermestes brachypterus* Fabricius, 1792 (*Ent. Syst.* 1 : 235) and in 1810 (*Consid. gén. Anim. Crust. Arachn. Ins.*: 427) cited this species as the type of the genus.

3. The first included species (*Dermestes pulicarius* Linnaeus) belongs to the family Nitidulidae. It was reclassified by Latreille, 1807 (*Genera Crust. Ins.* 2 : 15) in the genus *Cercus* Latreille and by Gyllenhal, 1808 (*Insecta Suecica* 1 : 246) in *Cateretes* Herbst. In 1858, Jacquelin Du Val (*Gen. Coléopt. Europ.* 2 : 138) established the subgenus *Heterostomus* (of the genus *Brachypterus* Kugelann), for two species, *gravidus* Illiger and *cinereus* Heer. Ganglbauer, 1908 (*Käf. Mitteleuropa* 3 : 454) considered *Heterostomus* Du Val as a separate genus. Later, Grouvelle, 1913 (*Ann. Soc. ent. France* 81 : 387) pointed out that this name was a junior homonym of *Heterostomus* Bigot, 1857 (Insecta : Diptera) and replaced it by the new name *Brachypterolus*.

4. The species included by Latreille in 1806 and cited as type by him in 1810, *Dermestes brachypterus* Fabricius, belongs to the family Staphylinidae, and is generally accepted as being typical of the genus *Proteinus*.

5. Blackwelder, 1952 (*Bull. U.S. nat. Mus.* 200: 413) pointed out that because of its type-species, *Proteinus* belonged to the family Nitidulidae and proposed the new name *Pteronius* for the Staphylinid genus.

6. If the Code is strictly obeyed, *Proteinus* Latreille, 1796, with the type-species *Dermestes pulicarius* Linnaeus, must be the valid name for a genus of Nitidulidae with the following synonymy:

Proteinus Latreille, 1796

= *Heterostomus* Du Val, 1858 (nec Bigot, 1857)

= *Brachypterolus* Grouvelle, 1913

Also, the genus of Staphylinidae previously known as *Proteinus* must be:

Pteronius Blackwelder, 1952

= *Proteinus*: Latreille, 1806, et auctt. (nec Latreille, 1796).

7. The generic name *Proteinus* Latreille has, however, been used in the family Staphylinidae for more than 150 years. It is generally used in this sense and the subfamily name Proteininae has been derived from it. In addition, the name *Brachypterolus* Grouvelle has been used for a genus of the family Nitidulidae for more than 50 years. Its replacement by a name generally used in the subfamily Staphylinidae can only cause confusion.

8. We therefore request the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type-species for the nominal genus *Proteinus* Latreille, 1796, made prior to the Ruling now requested, and having done so, to designate *Dermestes brachypterus* Fabricius, 1792, to be the type-species of that genus;
- (2) to place the following generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Proteinus* Latreille, 1796 (gender : masculine), type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Dermestes brachypterus* Fabricius, 1792;
 - (b) *Brachypterolus* Grouvelle, 1913 (gender : masculine), type-species, by present designation, *Cantharetes gravidus* Illiger, 1798 ;
- (3) to place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *brachypterus* Fabricius, 1792, as published in the binomen *Dermestes brachypterus* (type-species of *Proteinus* Latreille, 1796);
 - (b) *pulicarius* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Dermestes pulicarius*.